



Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue #1

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

9 May 2012

Newsletter Update

This is the first Cotton/Soybean Insect Newsletter for 2013. I have provided this newsletter for 7 seasons now and kept it in this format because of the positive feedback I've received over the years. If you have suggestions for improvement, please let me know. I will continue to provide this weekly publication from now until sometime in September. That will cover most of the "insect season" for both cotton and soybeans. If you know of someone who wants to be added to the distribution list to receive this newsletter, please have them email me (green4@clemson.edu) with the request. Also, please email to me each week your observations pertaining to insect news in cotton and/or soybeans, and I will include the information in one of the sections "News from..." Use those sections to alert others of what you might have seen first. Thanks! Have a great growing season!

Pest Patrol Hotline

The information contained herein each week is available via a toll-free hotline. I will update the short message weekly for at least as long as the newsletter runs. Call the free number (877) 285-8525 and select the messages you would like to hear. Select #1 for updates from the Southern Region. Select #3 for the Southeast, and then select #1 to hear my message. Text alerts are also available. The hotline is sponsored by Syngenta.

Cotton/Soybean Insect Workshops

We are tentatively planning to have two workshops in June devoted to insect sampling, identification, and management in cotton and soybeans here at the Edisto REC (64 Research Road, Blackville, SC 29817 – just west of Blackville on Hwy 78) and in the Pee Dee Region (most likely at the Pee Dee REC, 2200 Pocket Road, Florence, 29506). Tentative dates are 20 June for Edisto and 27 June for Pee Dee. We will have an indoor and in-field program, allowing for some hands-on training. More details will be available soon.

News from Above the Lakes

Please submit your observations concerning insect news in cotton or soybeans to me by Wednesday of each week for inclusion in these sections on Thursday.

David DeWitt, county agent covering Lee, Kershaw, and Sumter Counties, informed me earlier this week that he has "some cotton this way that...the farmer saw lots of disturbance around the top of the soil. I stopped by and dug around and he has a bunch of grubs. The cotton is just up and some still coming out of ground. Is this a concern and if it is what should be done?" We are following up on this and will report back. We did see some sugarcane beetle damage to cotton several years ago, but that species injures plants in the adult stage and not as immatures. White beetle grubs typically found in the soil feed on plant roots...we will run this one down.

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News from Below the Lakes

Charles Davis, county agent covering Calhoun County, reported that all is wet and cold up until now. Much planting will take place shortly.

News from the Piedmont/Upstate

Jay Crouch, county agent in Newberry, reported that “kudzu bugs easy to find anywhere around my counties on a warm afternoon.”

Cotton Situation

As of 6 May 2013, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had the cotton crop at 14% planted, well behind where we were last year at 25% planted and the 5-yr average of 22% planted. Conditions have not yet been favorable for growing cotton. Soil moisture levels in the state were described last week as “excessive” and planting was slowed and delayed as a result. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Current Problems in Cotton

Cold, wet conditions have not been favorable for cotton thus far, but things are turning around. Thrips numbers should be quite numerous in the next couple of weeks. Pay close attention to emerging plants, and look for feeding injury to the first true leaf. The need for foliar treatments for thrips will depend on many factors including environmental conditions, what preventative insecticide application (seed treatment, in-furrow liquid/granular, etc.) you used, and others. We looked at multiple treatments for thrips last year and observed very good control with in-furrow liquid applications of imidacloprid. We are exploring liquid in-furrow applications further this season. We also continue to test standards such as aldicarb (Temik), the various seed treatments, and all other at-plant options (e.g. Thimet, acephate/Orthene, etc.) for thrips.

Soybean Situation

As of 6 May 2013, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office had our progress at 10% planted, well behind where we were last year at 24% but not too far behind the 5-yr average of 13% planted. About 1% of the soybean crop has emerged, behind where we were last year at 6% and the 5-yr average of 3%. Conditions have not been favorable for producing soybeans also. Fields contain excessive moisture in many cases. It is a little early yet, though. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

Kudzu Bugs

This invasive species is out in force already and can easily be observed just about anywhere. I think that we will have large numbers to deal with this season, as we had many adults go into and come out of overwintering. We continue to learn about this new pest and will report findings throughout the season. Basically, we need to key on the immature stage of this insect in soybeans. Because there are only two complete generations per year, we should be able to control the immatures for each generation and control population development. The USB helped us produce a kudzu bug field guide last year that is available online at:

<http://digital.turn-page.com/i/87846>

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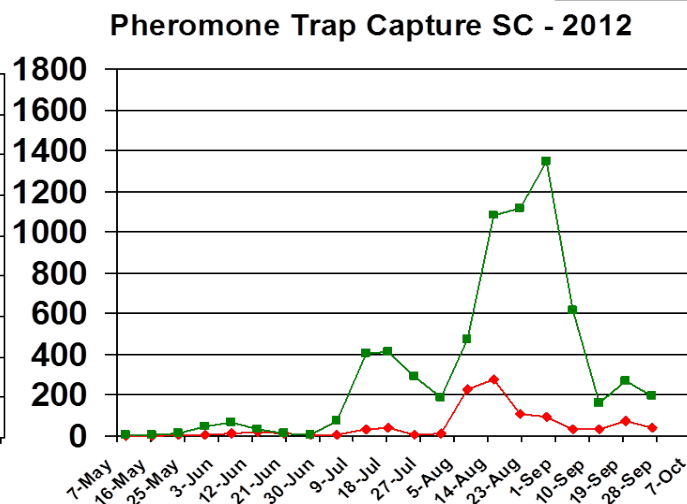
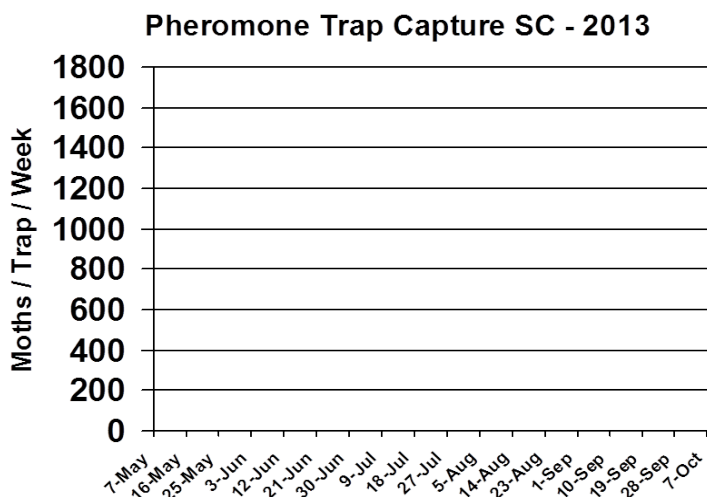
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Bollworm & Tobacco Budworm



Captures of bollworm (BW) and tobacco budworm (TBW) moths in pheromone traps at EREC this season are shown below, as are the captures from 2012 for reference. The counts are not actually showing graphically yet, but we caught about 50 BW per trap and about 17 TBW per trap this past week. They will be on the charts next week. Tobacco budworm continues to be important for our soybean acres and for a very limited number of non-Bt-cotton acres. I provide these data as a measure of moth activity in our local area as an indication of moth presence and activity near my research plots. The numbers are not necessarily representative of the species throughout the state.



Pest Management Handbook - 2013

Insect control recommendations are available online in the 2013 South Carolina Pest Management Handbook at:
<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/pest/>

Need More Information?

For more Extension information: <http://www.clemson.edu/extension/>

For historical cotton/soybean insect newsletters:

http://www.clemson.edu/extension/rowcrops/cotton/pest_management/newsletters/index.html

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.
Professor – Entomologist